

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration in light of the remarks which follow is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection of Claims 1-14

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wang (US 2003/0022073) in view of Zhang (US 2004/0137339) and Kundu (US Patent 4,931,404). Wang relates to a fluoropolymer-coated photomask for photolithography. Zhang relates to a photo-mask assembly. Kundu relates to a method and device for ketone measurement.

To reject claims in an application under §103, an examiner must establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the cited art document or documents when combined must teach or suggest all claim features. See MPEP §706.02(j).

Problems of foreign matters of pellicles occur more significantly as an exposure wavelength is shorter. The claimed pellicle generates substantially no foreign matter on a pellicle film and/or photo-mask when the pellicle is irradiated with ArF laser light (248 nm wavelength). To this end, claim 1 recites "*a pellicle generates a volatile organic compound of 0.5 ppm or less in total with respect to the weight of the pellicle under a specific detection condition and when the pellicle is irradiated with ArF laser light to an amount of 100 J/cm², substantially no foreign matter is generated on the pellicle film and/or the photo-mask.*" Independent claims 2 and 4-6 recite similar features. The cited art documents fail to teach or suggest such features.

Wang does not expressly or inherently teach or suggest a pellicle that generates substantially no foreign matter when the pellicle is irradiated with ArF laser light to an amount of 100 J/cm². It is well established principle that inherency must be a necessary result and not merely a possible result. *Ex parte Levy*, 17 USPQ2d 1461, 1464 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1990) and MPEP §2112 IV. The fact that a characteristic may be present in a cited art document is not sufficient to establish inherency of that result or characteristic. *In re Rijckaert*, 9 F.3d 1531,

1534, 28 USPQ2d 1955, 1957 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The assertion that Wang's pellicle may generate substantially no foreign matter when the pellicle is irradiated with ArF laser light to an amount of 100 J/cm² is not sufficient to establish inherency of that result. It is requested that the Examiner cite a document to support the assertion so that the amount of foreign matter from the pellicle when irradiated with ArF laser light to an amount of 100 J/cm² can be properly evaluated within the context of the subject invention.

While the Examiner asserts that Zhang teaches a molecular sieve and that Kundu teaches 2,6-diphenyl-p-phenylene oxide as an adsorbent, Zhang and Kundu fail to make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Wang. Consequently, the proposed combination of Wang, Zhang, and Kundu fails to teach or suggest all the features of the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In addition, claim 2 recites "**removing a volatile organic compound from a pellicle.**" Claim 12 recites "*a pellicle is made by **heating** to 40 °C to 100 °C under a gas flow of 1 ml/min to 1,000 ml/min and under a reduced pressure environment of 0.001 Pa to 55,000 Pa **to remove volatile organic compounds.***" Claim 13 recites "*materials of pellicle are **heated before assembling** the pellicle to 40 °C to 200 °C under a gas flow of 1 ml/min to 1,000 ml/min and under a reduced pressure environment of 0.001 Pa to 55,000 Pa **to remove volatile organic compounds.***" Claim 14 recites "*an inside wall coating agent and a photo-mask adhesive coated on a bottom of pellicle frame are **heated before assembling** the pellicle to 100 °C to 200 °C under a gas flow of 1 ml/min to 1,000 ml/min and under a reduced pressure environment of 0.001 Pa to 55,000 Pa **to remove volatile organic compounds.***"

The proposed combination of Wang, Zhang, and Kundu fails to teach or suggest such features. In fact, the cited art documents are silent as to removing volatile organic compounds from a pellicle, materials of pellicle, or an inside wall coating agent and a photo-mask adhesive. Since the cited art documents fail to teach or suggest all the features of the claims, the cited art documents cannot render the claims obvious. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully

requested.

Conclusion

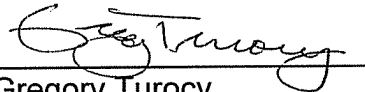
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN, TUROCY & CALVIN, LLP



Gregory Turocy
Reg. No. 36,952

57th Floor, Key Tower
127 Public Square
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Telephone (216) 696-8730
Facsimile (216) 696-8731